

For Carpenter ants, you may also use a 1% concentration of malathion or a 0.5% concentration spray of baygon.

Dusts: Insecticide dusts are superior to sprays for controlling some species of ants. Their main advantage lies in the fact that they disperse better than sprays when blown into otherwise inaccessible areas, such as wall spaces. Use one of the following: chlordane — 5% dust or diazinon — 4% dust. Use only a prepared dust, home mixing is unsatisfactory.

Outdoor control: Chlordane and diazinon in the form of dusts, wettable powders or emulsions are recommended for the outdoor control of ant colonies. Oil-base sprays, which include most of the household spray materials, are not suitable for outdoor use; they may damage vegetation and other plants with which they come in contact. Only emulsions or wettable powders, with water sprinkler, or a low-pressure sprayer delivering a coarse droplet spray should be used. For outdoor control of ant colonies, use one of the following:

chlordane	5% dust
diazinon	4% dust

If a lawn, golf or bowling green is generally infested, a thorough treatment of the entire area will produce best results, and properly done, should last throughout the season.

Poisoned Baits: Poisoned baits may be used to control some of the small species of ants. These are quite effective, as workers will carry the poisoned bait back to the nest where it is fed to the rest of the colony. Commercial preparations are available containing Kepone.

Pesticides Are Poisons — Treat Them As Such: Read the label carefully and follow directions fully. Observe the following precautions: Keep out of reach of children; do not transfer from original container; do not spray foodstuffs, food containers or surfaces that will be used to hold unwrapped foodstuffs; if spilled on skin, wash at once with soap and water. Contaminated clothing should be removed immediately and washed before being worn again; if taken internally, call a doctor, take the person to hospital or, if in an area remote from emergency medical care, check whether pesticide contains a petroleum distillate solvent and if it does not, induce vomiting.

Government licensed pest control operators are available. Consult the yellow pages of your telephone directory.

Prepared by

PESTICIDES CONTROL SECTION
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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ONTARIO PESTICIDES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.



A Good Thing To Keep In Mind

When Using

PESTICIDES

ANTS

PEST CONTROL INFORMATION

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Ontario

Ministry
of the
Environment

Hon. William G. Newman,
Minister
Everett Biggs,
Deputy Minister

1975

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ANTS

Ants can be a problem in and around the home. Most build nests in soil and those that invade buildings usually nest near foundations or under concrete slabs. An exception is the Carpenter ant, which builds its nest in hollow trees, stumps, poles and, sometimes, in building timbers.

Ants Or Termites? — How To Tell: Sometime during the year, all ant colonies produce a winged form of ant often mistaken by home-owners for termites. Here's how to tell them apart: Ants have narrow "waists" like a wasp and termites a straighter body and no waist. Ants have four wings in pairs of unequal length that are clear like those of a housefly. Termites also have four wings, but of equal length, twice as long as the body and milk-colored. Ants swarm during the spring or early summer and fall while termites usually swarm in the spring.

Life History: Ants undergo complete metamorphosis, developing from egg through larva and pupa to the adult. Their colonies are organized into complex societies with a division of labor among the three castes of worker, queen and male. Under ideal conditions, development from egg to adult takes about two months. However, under colder conditions the period of development may take as long as 10 months.

Food Habits: Ants eat a wide variety of foods, ranging from sweets and greasy starch materials to plant and animal materials. Food of the Carpenter ant consists mainly of all types of human food as well as insects, insect secretions, plant juices, fruit, grease, honeydew and sweets.

Preventing Infestations: The first step in controlling ants is to find the nest, if possible. If the ants are in the house, make note of the surfaces over which they crawl, as they move into or through the house. This will enable you to determine whether the nests are inside the house or outside. For example, pavement ants usually nest along sidewalks and driveways, and around or in foundation walls. But, they may also nest in the basement, under a porch or in the lawn.

Indoor-nesting species, such as the small red Pharaoh ant and the thief ant, sometimes nest outdoors during summer in the north and seek shelter in the house in the colder seasons. Finding an ant nest inside the house is often a difficult job; it may even be impossible without removing a wall or floor. As a practical matter, the control of ants that nest in the house must usually be accomplished without locating the nest.

Pharaoh Ant:

Worker Size — 1/16".

Colour — yellowish to light brown to red.

Nests — inaccessible locations inside a building in warm places such as in wall voids or under flooring.

Food — it will eat virtually any food, but prefers greasy foods.

Thief Ant:

Worker Size — 1/16".

Colour — yellowish or light brown to dark brown, shiny.

Nests — very large colonies in soil, rotting wood or masonry of buildings.

Food — high protein foods of a wide variety.

Outdoor-nesting species sometimes make their nests inside buildings. Among these are the carpenter ant and little black ant.

Some of the other ants that may invade a home are the acrobatic ant and the odorous house ant.

To find the nest outdoors, look for an ant-hill on the ground. Some ants, when they build nests in the ground, thrust out bits of earth which form ant-hills around the openings.

Little Black Ant:

Worker Size — 1/16".

Colour — dark brown to black.

Nests — exposed or covered soil, rotten wood, or masonry of houses.

Food — insects, sweets, meat, grease, vegetables and fruit.

Carpenter Ant:

Worker Size 1/4" - 1/2".

Colour — black.

Nests — often live outdoors in stumps, hollow logs, telephone poles and fence posts — they may be carried into homes with firewood. Indoor nests commonly occur in hollow doors of closets, rooms etc.; underneath washing machines and dishwashers or other areas where moisture accumulates; behind baseboards, fireplaces, shingles, or other natural hollow areas; in basements or attics where moisture is prevalent.

Food — insects, household food and sap.

Several precautions should be taken to prevent infestation by Carpenter ants. Remove decaying wood from around the home or other buildings. Do not store firewood for a long time or bring infested pieces indoors. Provide good ventilation in the house and good drainage around it so that any wood used in the building stays dry. Wood to be used where dampness may occur should be treated with a preservative. Do not accumulate garbage. Store food in closed containers and keep kitchen counters and shelves clean. Quickly clean up any spills of syrup, sugar or other sweets.

In the garden certain species of ants are known to place aphids (plant lice) and related sucking insects not only on plant roots but also on the above-ground portions of the plants. Besides being responsible for some aphid infestations, ants occasionally injure plants directly, either by feeding on them or by keeping the areas around their nests bare or unshaded.

Chemical Control: Chlordane and diazinon, two of the available chemicals which will kill any species of ant, kill quickly by contact and their residues remain effective for several weeks, slowly killing ants that travel over the treated surfaces.

Indoor control: For indoor control of ants, the following methods are recommended:

Sprays: Use one of the following sprays:

chlordane	2%
diazinon	0.5%
baygon	1%

in a refined kerosene base or in a water emulsion. Ready-made formulations are also available

Apply with a paint brush or with a hand sprayer as a coarse or droplet spray (not mist) to all areas infested by ants. Make sure that surfaces (except counter tops) in these areas are thoroughly wet with insecticides. Counter tops should NEVER be sprayed, because of the danger of contaminating food. Treat doorsteps, baseboards and the floor close to them, under and around sinks and on connecting pipes, table legs and the floor beneath tables and refrigerators.